

REMARKS

In the Official Action, the Examiner withdrew the unity of invention/restriction requirement and rejected claims 1-4 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. In particular, the Examiner asserted that the term "SUS304-BA" is a trademark or tradename and also maintained that certain phrases in claims 1 and 3 rendered the claims indefinite.

Although applicants do not agree with the rejection by the Examiner, the instant response amends claims 1 and 3 and submits technical information in an earnest effort to advance the prosecution of the present application. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended so that the surface protecting adhesive film first defines the base film and then defines the acrylic adhesive layer and further recites that the acrylic adhesive layer is formed on both the front surface and the back surface of the base film. The format of the claim does not alter the scope thereof, but sets forth the components of the surface adhesive film in a manner which makes the subject matter more clear. Furthermore, claim 3 has been amended to delete the term "a non-circuit formed surface" which should address any perceived clarity issue concerning claim 3.

Turning to the Examiner's concern regarding the SUS designation, applicants initially point out that the SUS designation is not a trademark or a tradename. Instead it refers to a standard for stainless steel that is well accepted in the art. Indeed, the Examiner need only conduct a search of the U.S. patent literature and he will find 22 U.S. patents which include claims using the term "SUS304". To further demonstrate the propriety of this term, attached hereto is the Japanese Industrial Standard for "Cold Rolled Stainless Steel Plates, Sheets and

Strip" and an English translation thereof. As may be seen from page 3 of the English translation, SUS304 defines a well known stainless steel of defined composition and page 13 indicates that the term "BA" refers to plates and strips that have been processed with bright heat treatment after cold rolling. Thus, those of ordinary skill in the art will have absolutely no problem in determining the scope of the subject matter set forth in the claims of record. In this respect, it will be further appreciated from the description provided on page 16, lines 24-31, that this specific Japanese Industrial Standard is referred to in the specification with respect to the measurement of adhesive force. Thus, there is no question that those of ordinary skill in the art will understand the meaning of the recited term.

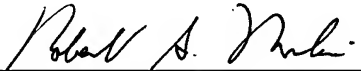
Since all matters raised in the Official Action have been fully addressed by the present response (which does not raise any new issues since the scope of claim 1 has not been changed), applicants respectfully request entry of the instant response and reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

As a final matter, applicants note that the Information Disclosure Statement dated July 20, 2005, has still not been acknowledged despite the request set forth on page 9 of the response filed on November 1, 2005. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that an acknowledged citation form be included with the Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application,
he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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